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## Citizen Participation in the Parks and Recreation 2020 Master Plan



## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE 2020 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

The process to develop the Parks and Recreation 2020 Master Plan included input from many citizens and participants. The Parks and Recreation staff initially analyzed its operation, facilities, programs and services and developed a concise document that detailed the inventory and location of existing facilities and services. Through a series of three public forums and eight focus groups, residents were invited to give their comments and recommendations on how to improve parks and recreation services. Participants were also given a survey to complete to rate how satisfied they were with existing programs, facility maintenance, and leisure/recreation opportunities.

The primary concern at each public forum was for better maintenance of existing athletic fields, which included youth athletic programs, high school tracks, and athletic fields. Other comments included providing better access to the beaches and waterways, the development of more neighborhood parks, creation of more teen and youth programs, more pools, and better advertising of the many services currently offered. Staff also made presentations and passed out surveys to local charities and non-profit organizations. To provide all citizens an opportunity to comment on the Master Plan, a 24-hour hotline was provided.

To gather more detailed information, a series of focus groups were developed consisting of the users of selected services and programs. The eight focus groups were: Athletic Facilities, Facilities Maintenance, Teens, Adults, Seniors, Pre-school, Open Space, and the Use of School Facilities. Through these group discussions with the users and non-users, the following expectations of Hampton's Parks and Recreation system were developed:

## **EXPECTATIONS OF HAMPTON'S PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM**

### **ACCESSIBLE TO ALL RESIDENTS**

- safe
- affordable
- well distributed throughout the community
- not dependent upon automobile transportation
- expanded hours of operation
- user friendly
- well promoted and publicized

### **FLEXIBLE FACILITIES**

- multi-purpose and multi-use facilities
- adaptable to changing needs
- wide range of age appropriate activities and spaces
- supervision
- state of the art

### **SUPPORTIVE OF SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**

- accommodate the needs of all
- individual as well as team activities

### **OFFER RELIEF FROM URBAN DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS**

- passive and active open space
- create and reinforce community cohesiveness
- offer alternatives to automobile transportation
- preservation

### **BUILD NEW/EXPAND UPON EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS**

- private providers
- schools (Hampton University, Christopher Newport University, Thomas Nelson Community College)
- community groups
- military
- user groups
- youth

### **ATTAIN/MAINTAIN MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ALL FACILITIES**

- maintenance
- equipment

### **ANTICIPATE AND ACCOMMODATE EXISTING AND FUTURE NEEDS**

- land acquisition
- additional athletic fields
- additional community centers
- additional indoor pools
- new facilities - roller hockey, ice skating, field complex, etc.

Paying close attention to citizen expectations of the immediate and future needs of the parks and recreation system, staff formulated strategies to address these. Each expectation was applied to the resulting goals and strategies to ensure that the quality of facility and program development would meet the demands of citizens. This master plan is truly representative of the views and ideas generated by the citizens to provide leisure experiences for all to enjoy now and in the future.